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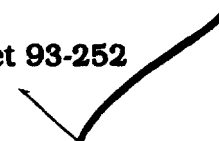
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**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of)
)
Implementation of Sections 3(n))
and 332 of the Communications Act)
)
Regulatory Treatment of Mobile)
Services)

GEN. Docket 93-252



Reply Comments of General Communication, Inc.

General Communication, Inc. (GCI) hereby files reply comments in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking¹ to implement Sections 3(n) and 332 of the Communications Act. Specifically, the Notice requested comment on the regulatory treatment of mobile services.

Most parties, including GCI, support the broad definition of commercial mobile services as outlined in the Notice. A mobile service is classified as commercial if the service is provided for profit and makes interconnected service available to the public or to such classes of eligible users as to be effectively available to a substantial portion of the public. This definition is intended to encompass a large class of providers and should be so construed. The ability of the Commission to forbear from regulating commercial mobile service providers makes the private mobile service classification practically unnecessary. The Commission should not allow providers to manipulate the rules to their

¹Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Gen. Docket 93-252, FCC 93-454 (released October 8, 1993).

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advantage by choosing to be a private mobile carrier when they indeed are offering commercial mobile services.

As supported by most parties, the definition of private mobile services should be extremely limited. A company should not be allowed to allocate a portion of its spectrum as commercial and a portion of its spectrum as private. This would enable providers to bend the Commission's rules for their own benefit. Many providers would have the incentive to designate allocations as private because the rules and filing fees are less burdensome. Furthermore, providers should not be allowed to negotiate individualized prices and call their services private. If the Commission allows providers to self certify that they are providing private mobile services and the Commission later determines that the provider should have certified that it was providing commercial mobile services, the provider should forfeit its license.

The Commission recently adopted rules for Personal Communications Services (PCS)² allowing Local Exchange Carriers (LECs) to provide PCS within their franchised areas without creating a separate subsidiary. The LEC bottleneck will continue and be even more entrenched when the LEC obtains a PCS license. Therefore, all commercial mobile service providers, including cellular and PCS providers, should be subject to equal access requirements. These rules should be based on the existing LEC rules. Through equal access, the customer will receive all the benefits promised by the wireless technologies,

²Amendment of the Commission's Rules to Establish New Personal Communications Services, Gen Docket 90-314, FCC 93-451 (released October 22, 1993).

including PCS. Furthermore, mobile service providers should be required to give their customers a choice of long distance service providers. This will ensure that interexchange competition is not harmed. The Commission well understands that the market performs best when the customer is able to choose its long distance carrier.

As outlined in the Notice, commercial mobile service providers are classified as common carriers, which can be exempt from provisions of Title II of the Communications Act other than Sections 201, 202 and 208. However, dominant carriers and their affiliates should not be exempt from any of the Title II requirements because of the market power they possess³. Also, rate base regulated LECs should not be allowed to include the costs of mobile services in their regulated costs. These dominant carriers are able to act anticompetitively, due to among other things, their control of the bottleneck. As supported by most parties, nondominant carriers do not have market power and should be exempt from Title II regulations.

All providers, whether dominant or nondominant, should be required to comply with all provisions relating to the complaint process. Those sections include 206 (Liability of Carriers for Damages), 207 (Recovery of Damages) and

³See, Competitive Carrier Proceeding, Notice of Inquiry and Proposed Rulemaking, 77 FCC 2d 308 (1979); First Report and Order, 85 FCC 2d 1 (1980); Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 84 FCC 2d 445 (1981); Second Report and Order, 91 FCC 2d 59 (1982); Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 82-187, released April 21, 1982; Third Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Mimeo No. 3347, released June 14, 1983; Third Report and Order, Mimeo No. 012, released October 6, 1983; Fourth Report and Order, 95 FCC 2d 554 (1983); Fourth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 96 FCC 2d 922 (1984); Fifth Report and Order, 98 FCC 2d 1191 (1984); Sixth Report and Order, 99 FCC 2d 1020 (1985), rev'd, MCI v. FCC, 765 F.2d 1186 (D.C. Cir. 1985).

209 (Orders for Payment of Money). It is clear that Congress intended for all providers to comply with these Sections since they relate to the complaint process.

All commercial mobile service providers should be required to interconnect with each other on the same terms and conditions as all other commercial service providers. The Commission cannot let the LECs abuse this requirement by setting a single interconnection arrangement. Interconnection requirements should be based on what the interconnector requests, whether or not the interconnector is also a competitor. This will prevent discriminatory practices.

To ensure equality, the Commission should classify PCS providers as co-carrier's so that they receive all the benefits and obligations of such classification. The Commission has stated that PCS should be competitive with the LEC landline systems.⁴ For that vision to become true, PCS providers must be co-carrier's. In this instance, the Commission must further define a co-carrier so as to include exchange access reciprocity. Mobile service providers are entitled to be compensated for terminating traffic from the LECs. Currently, the cellular operators are not compensated for termination of calls from the LECs. This is highly discriminatory. The LEC receives compensation for calls that originate on the cellular system and terminate over their landline networks, but cellular carriers are not compensated for calls that originate on the LEC system

⁴Amendment of the Commission's Rules to Establish New Personal Communications Services, Gen. Docket 90-314, FCC 93-451 (released October 22, 1993).

and terminate on the cellular system. The Commission should change this discriminatory system and define a co-carrier to include exchange access reciprocity.

Conclusion

The Commission should broadly define commercial mobile services and narrowly define private mobile services to prevent abuse of its rules. Nondominant mobile service providers should be exempt from various Title II regulations since they do not possess market power. However, dominant providers and their affiliates should continue to be subject to these Title II regulations since they possess market power. PCS providers should be deemed co-carriers with all the benefits and obligations thereto. Interconnection should be on no less favorable terms than for other carriers or customers.

Respectfully submitted,

GENERAL COMMUNICATION, INC.

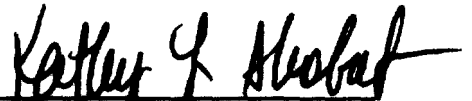


Kathy L. Shobert
Director, Federal Regulatory Affairs
888 16th St., NW, Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202)835-8214

November 23, 1993

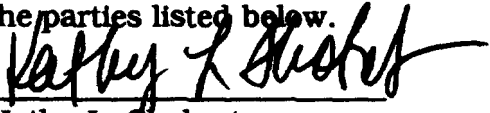
STATEMENT OF VERIFICATION

I have read the foregoing, and to the best of my knowledge, information and belief there is good ground to support it, and that it is not interposed for delay. I verify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed November 23, 1993.


Kathy L. Shobert
Director, Federal Regulatory Affairs
888 16th St., NW, Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202)835-8214

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Kathy L. Shobert, do hereby certify that on this 23rd day of November, 1993,
a copy of the foregoing Reply Comments of General Communication, Inc. was
mailed by first class mail, postage prepaid to the parties listed below.


Kathy L. Shobert

Chief, Mobile Services Division
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St., NW
Room 644
Washington, DC 20554

Michael J. Shortley, III
Rochester Telephone Corp.
180 South Clinton Ave.
Rochester, NY 14646

Chief, Land Mobile and Microwave Division
Private Radio Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
2025 M St., NW
Room 5202
Washington, DC 20554

James L. Wurtz
Pacific and Nevada Bell
1275 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20004

ITS
1919 M Street, NW
Room 246
Washington, DC 20554

Wayne V. Black
Tamera Y. Davis
Keller And Heckman
1001 G St., NW
Suite 500 West
Washington, DC 20001

R. Gerard Salemme
Cathleen A. Massey
McCaw Cellular Communications, Inc.
1150 Connecticut Ave., NW
4th Floor
Washington, DC 20036

Martin W. Bercovici
Keller and Heckman
1001 G St., NW
Suite 500 West
Washington, DC 20001

George Y. Wheeler
Koteen & Naftalin
1150 Connecticut Ave., NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20036

W. Bruce Hanks
Century Cellnut, Inc.
100 Century Park Ave.
Monroe, LA 71203

G. A. Gorman
North Pittsburgh Telephone Co.
4008 Gibsonia Rd.
Gibsonia, PA 15044

Phillip L. Spector
Susan E. Ryan
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton
& Garrison
1615 L St., NW
Suite 1300
Washington, DC 20036

John D. Lane
Robert M. Gruss
Wilkes, Artis, Hedrick & Lane
1666 K St., NW
Washington, DC 20006

Judith St. Ledger-Roty
Reed, Smith, Shaw and McClay
1200 18th St., NW
Washington, DC 20036

Ashton R. Hardy
Bradford D. Carey
Hardy & Carey
111 Veterans Blvd.
Suite 255
Metairie, LA 70005

Russell H. Fox
Susan H.R. Jones
Gardner, Carton and Douglas
1301 K St., NW
Suite 900, East Tower
Washington, DC 20005

David E. Weisman
Alan S. Tilles
Meyer, Faller, Weisman and
Rosenberg
4400 Jennifer St., NW
Suite 380
Washington, DC 20015

David L. Jones
Rural Cellular Association
2120 L St., NW
Suite 810
Washington, DC 20037

Joel H. Levy
Cohn and Marks
1333 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036

Thomas J. Casey
Simone Wu
Skadden, Arps, Slate
Meagher & Flom
1440 New York Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20005

**C. Douglas Jarrett
Michael R. Bennet
Keller & Heckman
1001 G St., NW, Suite 500 W
Washington, DC 20001**

**Corwin D. Moore
Personal Radio Steering Group
P. O. Box 2851
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106**

**William J. Franklin
1919 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006**

**Michael Hirsch
Geotek Industries
1200 19th St., NW
Suite 607
Washington, DC 20036**

**David L. Hill
O'Connor & Hannan
1919 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006**

**Anne P. Jones
David A. Gross
Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan
1275 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20004**

**Fredrick J. Day
Industrial Telecommunications Assoc.
1110 N. Glebe Road
Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22201**

**Randell B. Lowe
Mary E. Brennan
Jones, Day, Reavis & Pougé
1450 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005**

**Leonard J. Kennedy
Laura H. Phillips
Dow, Lohnes & Albertson
1255 23rd St., NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20037**

**David A. Reams
Grand Broadcasting Corp.
P. O. Box 502
Perrysburgh, OH 43552**

John T. Scott
Crowell & Moring
1001 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20004

Raymond G. Bender, Jr.
Michael D. Basile
Dow, Lohnes & Albertson
1255 23rd St., NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20037

Gail L. Polivy
GTE
1850 M St., NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20036

Larry Blosser
Donald J. Elardo
MCI
1801 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20036

Charles P. Featherstun
David G. Richards
BellSouth Corp.
1133 21st St., NW
Washington, DC 20036

David Cosson
L. Marie Guillory
NTCA
2626 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20037

Robert S. Foosaner
Lawrence R. Krevor
Nextel Communications
601 13th St., NW
Suite 1110 South
Washington, DC 20005

Daryl L. Avery
Peter G. Wolfe
DC PSC
450 5th St., NW
Washington, DC 20001

Martin McCue
Linda Kent
USTA
900 19th St., NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006

William J. Cowan
NYS DPS
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223